



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Plea/Sentencing

Defendant: Nedjo Lojpur

**SHELBY TOWNSHIP MAN IMPLICATED IN BOSNIAN WAR CRIMES
PLEADS GUILTY TO IMMIGRATION FRAUD**

A 52-year-old Shelby Township man who failed to disclose his service in a Bosnian Serb military unit that committed war crimes in the mid-1990s was sentenced to three months imprisonment today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations in Detroit.

Following Lojpur's term of imprisonment, United States District Judge Paul D. Borman ordered that he be deported to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Nedjo Lojpur served in the Zvornik Infantry Brigade in the former Yugoslavia from approximately 1992 to 1995. The Zvornik Infantry Brigade is known to be responsible for various atrocities committed during the 1992-1995 conflict in Bosnia, including the murder of 3,000-4,000 Bosnian men in the UN-designated safe-area of Srebrenica in July 1995, the murder of another 500-1000 men and boys in smaller executions, and the forcible expulsion of 25,000-35,000 women, children, and elderly.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Any immigrants who may have participated in war-time atrocities should understand that they will find no safe haven in the United States. We will pursue every legal remedy, up to and including deportation from the US -- as we did in this case."

According to pleadings filed in court, when Lojpur was arrested on December 11, 2006, he denied participating in any atrocities, claiming that his role in the Brigade was limited to guarding garrisons and digging trenches. He admitted to ICE agents, however, that he was aware of murder and torture taking place. "[B]oth sides were doing it," he told agents, and stressed that his unit, the "Zvornik Brigade[,] were fighting against Muslims."

Lojpur immigrated to the United States in 2002 but failed to disclose his military service on his refugee application. He again failed to disclose his military service in 2004, when he applied for permanent residency. As a result, he pled guilty to two counts of immigration fraud on April 17, 2007, leading to today's sentence.

Lojpur's December 11 arrest was part of the coordinated nationwide apprehension of Bosnian Serb war veterans who failed to disclose their military service on immigration documents. At least 16 individuals were arrested around the country that week and dozens more over the past two years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.